

The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

JUST A FEW WORDS.

Just a few words, but they blinded
The brightness all out of a day;
Just a few words, but they lifted
The shadows and cast them away.
Only a frown, but it dampen'd
The cheer of a dear little heart;
Only a smile, but its sweetness
Check'd tears that were ready to start.
Oh that the rules of our living
More like to the golden would be;
Much, oh! so much more of sunshine
Would go out from you and from me.

Remedy for Insect Bites.

When a mosquito, flea, gnat, or other noxious insect, punctures the human skin, it deposits or injects an atom of an acidulous fluid of a poisonous nature. The results are irritation, a sensation of tickling, itching, or of pain. The tickling of flies we are comparatively indifferent about; but the itch produced by a flea, or gnat, or other noxious insect, disturbs our serenity, and, like the pain of a wasp or a bee sting, excites us to a remedy. The best remedies for the sting of insects are those which will instantly neutralize this acidulous poison deposited in the skin. These are either ammonia or borax. The alkaline reaction of borax is scarcely yet sufficiently appreciated. However, a time will come when its good qualities will be known, and more universally valued than ammonia, or, as it is commonly termed, "hartshorn." The solution of borax for insect bites is made thus: Dissolve one ounce of borax in one pint of water that has been boiled and allowed to cool. Instead of plain water, distilled rose water, is more pleasant. The bites are to be dabbed with the solution so long as there is any irritation. For bees' or wasps' stings, the borax solution may be made of twice the above strength. In every farm-house this solution should be kept as a house-hold remedy.—S. Pierson.

A Hint to Butter-Makers.

It has been found that the quicker milk is cooled after milking, and while yet quite warm, the faster the cream will rise, and for the reason that, water being a better conductor for heat than oil and expanding faster and more in proportion to the amount of caloric received, and shrinking in the same proportion, it thus follows that the lower we cool to a certain point and the more dense we have the water, the butter-globules remaining nearly to the same density as at first, the sooner they will rise to the surface. For instance, we will take any amount of milk as soon as milked, and cooling it immediately down to 35 turn it into glass vessels 18 or 20 inches deep, and we will see by the results that the cream will all rise in from three to four hours; and, further, the quantity of cream thrown up will be more than can be obtained by any other method which I have tried. And, again, butter made from milk that is thoroughly cooled immediately after milking is of far superior flavor to butter made in the ordinary way.

To Destroy Cucumber Bugs.

The Watertown Reformer has the following timely advice in regard to ridding the garden of the bugs, etc.
"To destroy bugs on squash and cucumber vines dissolve a teaspoonful of saltpetre in a pailful of water; put one pint of this around each hill, shaping the earth so it will not spread much and the thing is done. Use more saltpetre if you can afford it—it is good for vegetable but death for animal life. The bugs burrow in the earth in the night and fail to rise in the morning. It is also good to kill the "grub" in peach trees—only use twice as much, say a quart to each tree. There was not a yellow or blistered leaf on twelve or fifteen trees to which it was applied last season. No danger of killing any vegetable with it—a concentrated solution applied to beans makes them grow wonderfully."

To Drive off Red Ants.

Grease a plate with lard and set it where the ants are troublesome; place a few sticks around the plate for the ants to climb upon; they will desert the sugar bowl for the lard; occasionally turn a plate over a fire where there is no smoke, and the ants will drop off into it; reset the plate, and in a few repetitions you will catch all the ants, they trouble nothing else when lard is accessible.

Silverware may be kept bright and clean by coating the articles warmed, with a solution of collodion diluted with alcohol.

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